

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 17, 2002. Claims 1-19 are now pending in this application. Claims 1 and 19 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In response to the objection to the drawings, Applicants respectfully request entrance of Figs. 3-6 showing an elliptical rod, a square rod, curved edges, and fine dots, respectively. The new drawings contain no new matter. Applicants believe that new Figs. 3-6 adequately respond to the objection in the Office Action. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the drawings. Two (2) copies of new Figs. 2-5 are included herewith.

On the merits, the Office Action rejected Claims 1-5, 7, and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kawahara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,810,463; hereinafter "Kawahara"). The Office Action also rejected Claims 8-11, 13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawahara in view of Endo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,123,077; hereinafter "Endo"). Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentable for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully note that Kawahara issued prior to Applicants' filing date, and consequently, a § 102(e) rejection is

believed improper. Applicants assume arguendo that a § 102(b) rejection was intended, and proceed accordingly.

Applicants' Claim 1 recites: "[a] A side-emitting illumination device for uniformly distributing light comprising: an LED light source, a light-transmitting rod which permits total internal reflection, and outcoupling material affixed to an outer surface of the rod, wherein the width of the outcoupling material affixed to an outer surface of the rod controls the angular distribution of light leaving the side of the rod."

Kawahara fails to recite or suggest the outcoupling material controls the angular distribution of light leaving the side of the rod.

Kawahara discloses an illumination device including an LED source and a light (see, e.g., Fig. 3). However, light reflected from Kawahara's scattering unit 86 produce random reflections in random directions. Kawahara controls light emitting from the rod by a space 84 in outer shell 70 at the position facing the scattering reflection unit 86. Thus, Kawahara's light scattering unit fails to recite or suggest that the width of scattering reflection unit 86 can control the angular distribution of light leaving the rod (without assistance from the shell 70). Claim 1 is believed patentable over Kawahara for at least these reasons.

Claims 2-18 depend from independent Claim 1 discussed above and are believed patentable for at least the same reasons. In


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addition, Applicants respectfully believe Claims 2-18 to be independently patentable and request separate consideration of each claim. In addition, Applicants respectfully believe the above amendments and remarks render the § 103 rejection of Claims 8-11, 13, and 16 moot. Withdrawal of the § 103 rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned agent may be reached by telephone at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A
MARKED-UP CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A side-emitting illumination device for uniformly distributing light comprising:

an LED light source,

a light-transmitting rod which permits total internal reflection, and

outcoupling material affixed to an outer surface of the rod,

wherein the width of the outcoupling material affixed to an outer surface of the rod controls the angular distribution of light leaving the side of the rod.